

northern tip of the island. They were also photographed and the record has been accepted by the East African Rarities Committee as the first documented for Tanzania.

Swift Tern *Sterna bergii*. There was an active colony on the western edge of the plateau that we estimated at c. 600–1000 birds.

Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata*. Known to breed on Latham in large colonies (Baker & Baker 2002) there were very few present during our visit. Only c. 50–100 birds were seen at the southern tip of the island.

Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*. There was a small colony of c. 1000 birds on the north-western edge of the plateau and a larger one of c. 3000 birds on the southern tip of the island.

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Yellow-billed Stork breeding in eastern Uganda

There have been no definite breeding records of Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis* in Uganda despite immature birds being sighted at Kajjansi in 1982 (Carswell 1986) and reports in Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957). Between 30 April and 26 June 2004, I found Yellow-billed Stork breeding at three waterbird colonies in eastern Uganda. One colony was located by the railway quarters in Mbale town (01°N, 34°E), one in the hospital grounds at Busolwe (00°N, 33°E) and one near the trading centre at Nampologoma (00°N, 34°E). The number of breeding pairs of Yellow-billed Stork varied at each colony. A maximum of 129 pairs were recorded at Busolwe, 26 pairs at the Mbale colony and 4 pairs at Nampologoma. Five other bird species, African Spoonbill *Platalea alba*, Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*, Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*, Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens* and Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* were also found breeding at these colonies (Table 1). Nests were

located in medium-sized, live trees of *Ficus* sp., *Cassia leptophylla*, Mango *Mangifera* sp. and 'Mvule' *Milicia excelsea*.

Colony location and the size of the breeding population were probably related to both nest site characteristics (the number of trees at the colony) and proximity to suitable foraging areas (including rice fields). The Nampologoma colony is located less than 5 km from the Doho rice scheme, the Busolwe colony is located within 5 km of the Nakwiga swamp that has had extensive drainage for rice growing, and the Mbale colony is located within 10 km of the Mbale sewage works and the Napwoli and Nambale wetlands that have been converted to small-scale rice and vegetable farming.

Table 1. Species and numbers of breeding pairs of large waterbirds at three colonies holding Yellow-billed Storks in Uganda.

| Species | Mbale | Busolwe | Nampologoma |
|---------------------|-------|---------|-------------|
| African Spoonbill | 8 | 94 | 38 |
| Black-headed Heron | 64 | 109 | 4 |
| Cattle Egret | 91 | 210 | 30 |
| Pink-backed Pelican | 30 | 70 | 0 |
| Sacred Ibis | 0 | 67 | 14 |

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First record of White-crowned Plover *Vanellus albiceps* in Uganda

On the afternoon of 10 July 2003 I was on the top deck of the Uganda National Parks launch sailing towards the famous falls in the Murchison Falls National Park. The river Nile was very high which meant that there were none of the usual sandbanks available for birds such as plovers and skimmers. We were